



Parish Website

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)
31ST JANUARY 2021



VirginMoneyGiving

Parish Priest Canon Anthony Dwyer

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Parish Administrator Mrs Melanie Armitage

The office is presently closed, but the Parish Priest and Administrator can be contacted by telephone: 01582 712245 or email: harpenden@rcdow.org.uk
Website: parish.rcdow.org.uk/harpenden twitter: @RC_OLOL
Facebook: Our Lady of Lourdes Harpenden

Parish Safeguarding Representative Mrs Brigid Brennan

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Today's gospel passage, is really the beginning of a busy day (and night) for Jesus in which are contained, one might say, all the main characteristics of his public life. He joins in public worship, he teaches, he heals, he drives out evil spirits - and he prays privately. There is also the astounded reaction of the ordinary people.

The people in the synagogue are simply astounded. "Here is teaching that is new and with authority behind it. He gives orders even to unclean spirits - and they obey him." No wonder his name rapidly becomes known all over the countryside

Despite all that Jesus does, what really astounds the people is that Jesus is a man of authority. We see how powerfully Mark presents the impact that Jesus makes. His work of salvation has begun. The Kingdom of God is near when he acts like this. People experience the power. But what kind of power is it?

It is the power of authority. Real authority is not just, as we often interpret it, having power over people so that we can make them do what we want them to do. Genuine authority is the ability to en-able people, to em-power them. To enable them to transcend themselves, to grow as persons, to be more effective in the development and use of their innate gifts.

This is the kind of authority which Jesus wields. Jesus did not come to rule and control people. He came, above all, to set people free. To free them from all the negative spirits of fear, compulsions, narrow self-centredness, anger, resentment, hostility and violence which prevent people from truly enjoying the experience of being alive. "I have come that they may have life, life in abundance."

MASS TIMES

Our Mass times are presently: Saturday (Vigil) 5.00pm, Sunday 9.00am and 10.30am*, Tuesday*, Wednesday and Thursday* at 9.15am. If you wish to attend one of the Masses on Saturday or Sunday, you can request up to two places via the parish website, for three, or more places, please email, or telephone, the parish office. If you are attending a weekday Mass, no need to advise in advance, you will be asked your name as you arrive, or you can use the NHS Track and Trace App to record your presence.

*These Masses are live-streamed, for details see below.

OPEN FOR NOW!!

As the restrictions increase, and places of worship are allowed to remain open, so it puts an additional responsibility on everyone, who is attending Mass, to ensure the safety, and well-being, of themselves and others. While churches haven't been instructed to close, either by the Government or the Diocese, some parishes have made the decision to do so. For ourselves, it is a matter of remaining open for now, while we continue to have sufficient helpers, this will be kept under review, and we will be guided by what is in everyone's best interests: parishioners, stewards and Parish Priest. If you do decide to come to church please follow the guidance of the stewards, wear a mask, sanitise your hands when entering and leaving,



and do not *minge with anyone outside of your household or support bubble*. If you suspect you may have Coronavirus symptoms, have been in touch with anyone who has, or if you are feeling unwell, do not come to church.

WRAP UP

One of the guidelines for trying to keep safe is to ensure that the church is well ventilated. With the present very cold weather, having to leave the doors open, even with the heating on is not ideal! So, if you are coming to Mass, it is probably a good idea to wrap up warm, with some extra layers.



CONFIRMATION 2021



We are starting to think about how we might manage to offer some sort of preparation course for receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, for candidates currently in Year 9 or above at school. As yet, plans are not

finalised as to how we can conduct our sessions, whilst adhering to Covid 19 guidelines, but the health and safety of our candidates and catechists will be of paramount importance.

Initially, we would like to open the application process, to enable us to have an idea of the numbers wishing to join our course for later this year. If your child would like to apply, please refer to the parish website :- parish.rcdow.org.uk/Harpenden or scan our QR code and click on the link for Confirmation 2021. You will be able to download or print off an application form which must be filled in and **emailed** to Melanie in the parish office on harpenden@rcdow.org.uk by no later than Monday 22nd February.



FIRST COMMUNION

Thank you to those parents who have registered their children for First Holy Communion Preparation, later this year. It had been hoped that we would, by now, have been in a position to provide information about



the preparation, as well as provisional dates for the First Communion celebrations. Unfortunately, the unpredictable situation, prevents us from doing so. Once things are, hopefully, clearer we will be in touch.

YOUR SUPPORT

Once again, many thanks to everyone who has continued to support the parish, financially, since the beginning of the first lockdown. The present Planned Giving envelopes end earlier this year, in March, which will enable future contributions to correspond with the tax year. Quite a number of envelopes are presently not being used and, as envelopes for the coming year are about to be ordered, it would be helpful to know of anyone, who may have decided, for whatever reason, to no longer support the parish in this way. It's a waste of parish money for envelopes to be ordered and not to be used. So, if you have

decided you no longer wish to give your contribution by envelope, please let us know. Contributions can be made via Standing Order, this is a very easy, dependable and, presently, safe way of contributing. For more information please contact the parish office.

Another way in which you can support the parish, is via Virgin Money Giving. Below is the link to the Parish Website if you would like to donate to the parish using Virgin Money Giving, <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/harpenden/donate/> or use the QR code at the top of the newsletter.



PARISH NEWSLETTER

As the pandemic continues so, the weekly newsletter will only be available electronically. Parishioners on the newsletter distribution list or parish database will continue to receive an electronic copy of the bulletin each week. It is also available on our website and can be accessed here. For anyone who cannot access it electronically, it is possible to have a copy posted, if you request one from the Parish Office. Alternatively, if you are aware of anyone without a computer, or internet access, you might think of printing off a copy for them.

CRIB

Usually the crib is taken down soon after the Epiphany, once the Magi have arrived! In some countries, such as Italy, cribs remain in place until February 2nd, the Feast of The Presentation of the Lord, which many regard as the end of the Christmas season. This year you will have noticed that our crib, and Christmas trees are still in place, and hopefully that will have brought some light, in what is still a dark, and anxious, time. Our crib, and trees, will finally be coming down later this week, once we have celebrated the Presentation.



VACCINATION

It's good hearing that quite a number of parishioners have had their Covid vaccine, and are grateful to have received it, while a few have some concerns. You may have heard that Pope Francis has had his Covid-19 vaccination, and is calling on everyone to receive their jab as an ethical obligation to protect their own health and those around them. He said: "I believe that ethically everyone must take the vaccine," he

said in an interview with an Italian TV station, "It is an ethical choice because you are risking your health, your life, and you are also risking the lives of others."

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

The present guidelines make it difficult to have a regular time for Confessions. Canon Dwyer is happy to hear confessions, for anyone who would like to do so. If you would like to celebrate this sacrament please email: anthonydwyer@rcdow.org.uk, or telephone the parish office, to arrange a time.



TOGETHER IN PRAYER

Although only a comparatively small proportion, of the parish, can attend one of the six Masses celebrated each week, we can still be united, in prayer. While the threat of the Coronavirus continues, we can continue to pray for everyone who is affected by it. And we might think of doing that each evening, at 7.30pm. Just pausing, either individually, or as a family, and offering a prayer for everyone who is affected, in any way by Coronavirus, and to pray for everyone in our parish also. Every Tuesday, starting this week, we will resume praying together via Zoom. For the code see below. This will be for a short time, not more than ten minutes.



PARISH OFFICE

In line with current government advice, our office administrator, Melanie is working mainly from home. This means that the phone may not always be answered during parish office hours (9.30am-12.30pm), Monday to Thursday, and you may not get a response to a voicemail immediately. The best way for parishioners to contact the parish office at the moment is by emailing harpenden@rcdow.org.uk



LIVESTREAMING

Masses and Services will be live-streamed on Zoom, and YouTube this coming week:

DAY	TIME	ZOOM CODE
Sunday - Mass	10.30am	835 0841 8205
Tuesday - Mass	9.15am	859 0668 7104
Tuesday - Praying Together	7.30pm Passcode	893 2503 5739 607760
Thursday - Mass	9.15am	876 2019 6525

DEVELOPING WORLD GROUP

The Annual Project Report is attached to the Newsletter email. It will also be posted on the parish website in the DWG Past Projects section.



ST DOMINIC NURSERY - ADVANCE NOTICE



On the 1 February 2021, the application process for Nursery places will open for children born between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018. Our Early Years provision enables parents to access 30 hours free

childcare with Nursery morning sessions running Monday- Friday, 8.45-11.45am and an optional Lunch Club and afternoon Pre-School run by *Friends Together* running until 3.30pm. Wrap around care offered by *Friends Together* also means that care for children is available between 7.50am and 6pm, should this be required.

For further information please visit our website www.stdominic.herts.sch.uk to book an appointment to attend to one of our **online visit mornings on Thursday 4 Feb at 1.30pm or Wednesday 10th Feb 10.00am**. Applications close at **3.30pm on 1 March**. Due to the continuing constraints imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, we have decided not to hold conventional open mornings this year. We are very sorry that we cannot welcome new parents into the school in the usual way, but hope you will enjoy taking a look at our virtual tour which can be found on our Admissions page of The Schools website. We are also offering parents the opportunity to book a place at a virtual meeting, where you will meet our Headteacher, Clare O'Sullivan and our Early Years Leader, Amanda Corcoran. We anticipate the meeting will last approximately 45 minutes.

To support your application, a Certificate of Catholic Practice form will need to be signed. Please speak to

your Priest as to how this is to be carried out at this time.

FOR THE CHILDREN

While the obligation to attend Mass remains suspended, it falls to each, if we are not attending Mass, to do what we can, to nourish our faith. Parents may find the following links, useful to do something with the children, particularly on Sundays: <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Children-s-liturgy> <https://rcdow.org.uk/faith/catechesis/childrens-liturgy/> <https://www.facebook.com/colourandshapeonline>

BISHOP'S MESSAGE FOR RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

Today 31 January is the Sunday set aside by the Bishops of England and Wales to pray, reflect on and promote racial justice in our community and in society. Speaking on behalf of the Bishops' Conference Bishop Paul McAleenan, the lead Bishop for Racial Justice, says that this year's Racial Justice Sunday is more important than ever. The effects of the Coronavirus pandemic, the killing of George Floyd, and the powerful message on fraternity and equality by Pope Francis in *Fratelli Tutti* speak of the need to actively oppose racism and pursue racial justice with renewed vigour. You can read the whole of Bishop Paul's letter at <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/racial-justice-sunday-2021/bishops-message-for-racial-justice-sunday-2021/>

UHT MILK AND LONG-LIFE FRUIT JUICE COLLECTION

Next Sunday 7 February, is the first Sunday in February. It would be good if we could resume our usual collection of UHT milk and Long-Life fruit juice for those affected not only by homelessness and poverty, but by coronavirus too. It is needed more than ever now. If you can't bring a carton to the church on Sunday, you can add one to the baskets in Sainsburys or send a donation



<http://www.localgiving.org/st-albans-district-foodbank>

LET US PRAY

For those throughout the world who are suffering from the impact of coronavirus. May the Lord of Mercy bring them health and healing.

Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for those who have died recently especially Felicity Walter, Don Clark, and Monica Owens and also, for those whose anniversaries occur at this time particularly, Caitriona Kelly. Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace.

We place in God's hand our personal needs and prayers.

We pray together our parish prayer.

God our Father, pour forth your spirit upon our parish. Grant us a new vision of your glory, a new experience of power, a new faithfulness to your word and a new consecration to your service, so that your love may grow among us and your kingdom come. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Lady of Lourdes Pray for us.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

SATURDAY 30TH JANUARY

Feria

VIGIL MASS 5.00PM

4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Don Clark RIP

SUNDAY 31ST JANUARY

4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

9.00AM

Monica Owens RIP

10.30AM

People of the Parish

Zoom Code 835 0841 8205

MONDAY 1ST FEBRUARY

feria

Sr Laurentia (Jubilee Spec Ints)

TUESDAY 2ND FEBRUARY

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

9.15AM

Caitriona Kelly RIP (1st Anniv)

Zoom Code 859 0668 7104

WEDNESDAY 3RD FEBRUARY

Ss Laurence, Dunstan & Theodore

Archbishops of Canterbury

9.15AM

Hugo Perez Parks (Sick)

THURSDAY 4TH FEBRUARY

feria

9.15AM

Heather Ng (Sick)

Zoom Code 876 2019 6525

FRIDAY 5TH FEBRUARY

St Agatha, Virgin & Martyr

SATURDAY 6TH FEBRUARY

St Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs

VIGIL MASS 5.00PM

5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Bernard St John Glew RIP (Anniv)

SUNDAY 7TH FEBRUARY

5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

9.00AM

People of the Parish

10.30AM

Francis Beard RIP

Zoom Code 835 0841 8205

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